

St. Helens Herald

OFFICIAL PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

PIONEER PAPER OF COLUMBIA COUNTY

ST. HELENS, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1916

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VOLUME XXXV.

MILL LEVY FOR CITY SCHOOLS

J. Mellinger is Elected Director to Fill Vacancy.

At a per published call, about fifty people gathered at the school auditorium Monday night for the purpose of electing a director to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of J. C. Graham, and also to levy the tax for support of the schools during the coming year. C. C. Cassatt, chairman of the board of directors, called the meeting to order and stated the purposes of the meeting. He announced nominations were in order for director. Mrs. George Perry nominated Mrs. Wm. Kettel; J. H. Payne placed the name of J. H. Payne on the meeting; Walter Blakesley nominated Mrs. George Perry, who declined the nomination, and T. S. White nominated W. J. Mellinger. Motion was then made and carried that the nominations be closed and a ballot be taken. Chairman Cassatt appointed Harold P. Ross and Martin White as tellers. The result of the ballot was:

Kettel	14
Mellinger	20
Payne	7
Total	41

Since the leading candidate did not receive a majority of all votes cast, another ballot was taken, which resulted in the election of Mr. Mellinger, and the chairman declared him elected. The vote was:

Kettel	17
Mellinger	25
Payne	3
Total	45

The next order of business was the election of the levy, and Mr. Cassatt made a statement of school statistics and expenses showing that a 10 mill levy was necessary to carry on the school work as it is at present. He stated the valuation in the district approximately \$1,000,000, while in the last levy was made it was but \$1,300,000, so a 10 mill levy this year would bring no more than a raised by a lower levy on an increased valuation last year. He explained the condition of many of the grades, which were overcrowded, and stated that in his opinion two more teachers were needed.

Mrs. Isbister, Mrs. Perry and Wm. Kettel made short talks as to what progress one could expect when the grades were overcrowded, and Mrs. Dillard suggested sending some of the seventh grade pupils to the West St. Helens school. Walter Blakesley, recalling his boyhood days, but not remembering the fact that the school attendance at present is more than the population of St. Helens when he was young, suggested that the principal of the school take on more work and teach nineteen or twenty grades. He did Judges McBride and Cleeton the pioneer days. His suggestion was not acted upon.

Judge John Phillip, coming in late after a strenuous day in court, took the time of the chairman in having explained to him what was going on. Finally the meeting got down to the question of the levy.

A motion was made for a 14 mill levy; another for 8 mills, and still another for 10 mills, with an additional 2 mills to be applied on indebtedness; and then a motion which seemed to appeal to the voters was made for a straight 10 mill levy to be used for current expenses and let the indebtedness take care of itself. Two ballots were taken, and on the last ballot the 10 mill straight had a majority, and the chairman stated that said levy would be the levy for the ensuing year.

No further business appearing, the meeting adjourned with everybody apparently satisfied.

ELECT OFFICERS

Last week the Rainier Pythians held their regular election and the following officers were selected for the ensuing year: C. C. F. E. Nixon; V. C. L. F. Austin; prelate, P. M. Roush; W. of W. A. J. Wagstaff; K. of R. & S. E. M. Young; M. of F. N. N. Blumenau; M. of E. Grover Sammons; M. at A. R. Budde; I. G. J. W. McMillan; O. G. D. E. Scott; trustee, A. J. Wagstaff. After the election a banquet was served.

BEAVER TRAPPER FOUND GUILTY

Jury Brings in Verdict of Guilty and Judge Fines Offender \$150.

The trial of Edward Gay and William Harris on a charge of trapping without a license was held Monday afternoon in the court of Judge Phillip. Witnesses were introduced to show that defendants had been trapping and inasmuch as the beaver hides and some traps were found in the house occupied by the Gays, the jury found Gay guilty and discharged Harris. Judge Phillip fined the accused man \$150, but his attorney, M. E. Miller, appealed the case and the bond was set at \$150, which was given in cash.

The defendant's daughter appeared as a witness against him, but her testimony was partly discredited because it was shown that on previous occasions she had perjured herself. Deputy Game Warden Brown testified as to having discovered the skins in Gay's house, also the traps on his premises, but Gay pleaded that the skins and traps were used in trapping some time ago and for this offense he was arrested by Brown, that his trial was held before the late Judge Barnes in Clatskanie, that he was found guilty but the fine remitted on his promise to "go and sin no more," and that the skins found in his home were skins from the beavers he had trapped previous to his first trial. Attorney Miller brought out the fact that no evidence had been introduced to show that the alleged crime was committed in Columbia county, Oregon, Washington, or any other state in the Union, but Judge Phillip, in the face of this, allowed the case to go to the jury. After a short deliberation the verdict was returned as given above.

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

Jimmy Palmer, leader of the Y. M. C. A., gave the high school and seventh and eighth grades a 20-minute talk in the assembly room Monday morning. We all enjoyed his address greatly and sincerely wish Mr. Palmer could come oftener.

Miss Alva Hudspeth knocked one of her fingers out of joint while engaging in a lively indoor baseball game.

The dignified seniors spend the last period of the morning in preparing debates. Those unfortunates who are forced to remain in the assembly during that period are patiently looking forward to the time when peace and quiet will render studying possible.

The second copy of the S. H. H. S. News will be published next week. It will undoubtedly excel the first in every respect. The high school girls, ever loyal to the cause, will make a personal canvass of the city, inviting every family to subscribe to our paper. The girls are not especially timid but are fervently hoping no one will turn them down.

There will be a public school entertainment given at the city hall December 15.

The program for Friday morning is: A five-minute talk: "Why I Like to Be a Freshman," Wilbur Larabee; "Why I Like to Be a Sophomore," Mason Dillard; "Why I Like to Be a Junior," Dewey Smith; "Why I Like to Be a Senior," John Southard.

The senior boys challenged the girls' indoor baseball team to a game Tuesday evening. The result was 21 to 12 in favor of the boys.

The general science class has been studying foods, and a discussion arose as to the proper method of cooking cabbage. Miss Hudspeth took one side and only Stanwood the other. Thursday morning they will come prepared to argue the question to a finish.

Wednesday morning the physics class studied the operations of the telegraph. The Morse code was used, and Dewey Smith sent some very interesting messages to some of the girls present. We understand he wishes to perfect himself in telegraphy, and there will probably be some of the girls as anxious to take it up as he.

STARTLING STATEMENT OF MANY MURDERS

TEN YEAR OLD BOY ACCUSES PARENTS OF CRIME

Sheriff Investigates and Finds No Evidence Supporting Charges—Deplorable Condition Was Disclosed However.

The arrest and trial of Edward Gay and William Harris for trapping without a license has brought out some startling evidence which gives a number of problems for the officers of the law to solve. So far as can be learned, the stories originated with a Mrs. Johnson, who, it seems, is not on friendly terms with the Gay family. The bitterness existing between the families was caused by Mrs. Gay's objection to Mrs. Johnson's brother, Edward McFall, being attentive to Hazel Gay, aged 14 years. It seems that Mrs. Johnson resented the interference of the girl's mother, and aided the girl in her preparation for leaving home. The girl and McFall went to Kalama on November 2 and were married, the witness, whom Sheriff Stanwood is now looking for, and the bridegroom swearing that the girl was of legal age and resident of Oak Point, Wash. After the wedding the couple left for Centralia, and McFall has been employed in a logging camp near that place since. A few weeks ago Mrs. McFall wrote to Mrs. Johnson, and among other things said "if old lady Gay" (her mother) got too gay she would squeal about the beaver trapping. Mrs. Johnson sent the letter to Sheriff Stanwood and he and Coroner White with Deputy Game Warden Brown began an investigation.

Clarence Gay, the 10 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Gay, broke into the limelight when he told the officers that his mother had killed a man named Harris, who was working on the highway and later helped his father trap. He stated that in the forenoon of a day several months ago, Harris was sick, and the boy went out to bring in some wood and when he returned Harris was dead. The boy stated his mother left Harris' body in the room, and the next day his father made a big fire box and with the aid of his mother and grandfather the body was taken up the creek and buried. The burial was supposed to have been at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The boy also accused his mother of killing a Greek named Peter Paris, a little 4 year old baby and also a baby five days old. In his statement he said:

"She hit the baby on the head with a stick, and mamma had a stick in her hand and she hit it and it fell down and never got up and then she put it in a big pasteboard box and put it under the bed, and about three days after they took him away some place. And then another little baby, about five days old, and he died, too, and they put him away over by the hillside and the grave was by a big maple tree, and uncle fell a tree across it and they took the tree off and cut it up for wood, and they took some men up the creek there and they put them by that big log."

Coroner White investigated at the place designated by the boy and found the remains of an infant, but later learned that it was a child of Mrs. Gay. The baby was dead when born and a physician's certificate was produced to verify the statements of the parent.

In answer to the question as to the murder of the Greek, the boy said:

"When we (he and his sisters) were under the table there and mamma had the ax in her hand. The ax was by the window and she took it and I heard the man holler and the blood was coming out of the side of his head and they had been quarreling there quite a while and they started to quarrel about mamma wanting some money, and he said he didn't have it, and mamma said he had to go down to the office (Kerry's) and get it, and he said he couldn't get it in the office and he had to go to Thompson's siding, and mamma said he had to go there and get it * * * and mamma hit him on the side of the head and

killed him and grandpa took him across the creek and cut his leg off and he took the shoe and the pants leg off it and put it in the place where they cook fish for the chickens, and they took him up the creek and then they (mamma, papa and grandpa) came back and grandpa took the meat off the bones and threw the bones into the slough * * there were a few bones left and grandpa dug a hole and put them bones in it. That is all they done to him."

The lad described, upon cross examination, every detail connected with the alleged occurrences, and three times repeated the same story. Finally he broke down and confessed to Sheriff Stanwood that Mrs. Johnson had made up the story and coached him in it, stating that the murders had been committed and that if he didn't tell the story as she told it to him the sheriff would think he committed the crimes and take him to jail.

Every clue given by the boy has been run down and no foundation for the story has been discovered. The murdered Greek, so Sheriff Stanwood learned, was working in Eugene several months after the time he was supposed to be murdered.

The remarkable phase of the case is the testimony of the 10 year old boy, who gave a clear statement of all occurrences, fixing times, dates, locations, etc., and then never varying from his first statements when he was cross examined. The case has given the officers no little trouble, but the sheriff believes he has solved the various questions and that the neighborhood will not have any more similar rows.

The sheriff decided to make a cleanup of the whole affair. Saturday he went to Tenino, where he arrested McFall, bringing him to St. Helens. McFall's wife had, a few days earlier, been located and brought here. McFall was charged with a statutory crime, and before Judge Phillip his preliminary trial was held Wednesday. Much evidence was introduced as to how and why the girl left home. It was shown that McFall had been "keeping company" with her for several months, that her mother remonstrated and the outcome was that the girl ran away and met McFall at Kalama, where they were married. McFall swore that he thought the girl was 18 years old, and the girl herself claimed she was of that age, but her mother stated that she was born February 6, 1902. The Gays were married in Michigan in 1897; the first child was born in 1898, the second one in 1900 and the third (Mrs. McFall) in 1902. The girl alleged that she had been mistreated and therefore looked to Mrs. Johnson (McFall's sister) for protection, but the only instance she could name was when her mother slapped her on the shoulder when the girl refused to leave McFall. Much more evidence, which is unprintable, was introduced. District Attorney Cooper presented the state's case and was followed by a Portland lawyer for the defense. During the speech of the attorney for the defense Mrs. Johnson became hysterical and had to be taken from the court room. M. E. Miller, special prosecutor, summed up the case, and the judge, while expressing regret on account of the girl's condition and the surrounding circumstances, stated that according to law he had no alternative except to bind the defendant over to the grand jury. His bond was fixed at \$750, and he is still in jail. It is probable that the 14 year old wife, who acknowledges she expects soon to become a mother, will probably be sent to some charitable home, and the boy who swore falsely against his parents is slated for the Boys' and Girls' Aid Society. A warrant was issued for Mrs. Johnson charging her with contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

ENGINEER KANNADY WRITES OF VOYAGE

States the Machinery of City of Portland Works to Perfection.

The Mist has received a letter from Chief Engineer E. H. Kannady of the motor vessel City of Portland, giving interesting details of the trip of the big vessel on her maiden voyage. The letter was written at Newcastle, Australia, and dated November 1. Mr. Kannady stated the vessel was then lying idle awaiting her cargo of coal, which was delayed on account of a strike of the coal miners. He stated that the machinery of the vessel worked perfectly on the drop down and that it was his opinion that the internal combustion was faultless and that he had no trouble. On the trip from San Francisco to Australia fine weather was encountered, but coming from Port Pirie to Newcastle it was very rough. Mr. Kannady asked to be remembered to his friends in St. Helens and stated that he hoped to again see them some time in January, when the City of Portland will be here for another lumber cargo.

PIONEER CITIZEN ANSWERS LAST CALL

Charles H. Briggs, Respected Citizen, Passes Away.

Charles H. Briggs, a Columbia county pioneer and a highly respected citizen, passed away at his home in Yankton Tuesday afternoon. For some months he has been in failing health and the end came peacefully. Mr. Briggs was a native of Maine and came to Columbia county in 1875, locating in the Yankton country. He was a prominent member of the St. Helens Masonic lodge, having joined that order more than 20 years ago. He leaves to mourn his loss a son, Fred Briggs, and a daughter, Mrs. L. F. Barger.

The funeral was held Thursday afternoon, and the interment was in Yankton cemetery, the Masonic fraternity conducting the ceremonies.

MASONS WILL ELECT OFFICERS

Election Saturday Night Which Will Be Followed by Banquet.

The St. Helens lodge of Masons will hold its annual election Saturday night to select officers for the coming year. As is their custom, after the newly elected officers have been selected a banquet will be spread and a general good time is expected.

NEW OFFICERS OF EASTERN STAR

Last Saturday night was the annual election of officers of the Eastern Star, and the following officers were elected:

Worthy Matron—Mrs. Lila Crouse, Associate Worthy Matron—Mrs. Mary Christie.

Worthy Patron—E. A. Rotger, Conductress—Mrs. L. L. Baker, Associate Conductress—Mrs. S. L. Butler.

Secretary—John Phillip. After the election a banquet was tendered to the newly elected officers. The lodge is in a flourishing condition and has plans formulated for a further growth during the coming year.

LOAN ASSOCIATION

The first branch of the Federal Loan Association for Columbia county was organized at Warren Tuesday night. W. J. Fullerton was elected president and A. L. Morris, secretary. The directors are W. J. Fullerton, S. Wellborn, T. Grewell, Joe Erickson, P. Peterson, A. Benson and A. L. Morris. The territory assigned to the association is all of the territory from the Multnomah county line to Warren and Bachelor Flat. While an application has been made to the authorities in Washington for a charter, the charter list will be held open for a few days, permitting farmers to take advantage of the federal act. Those interested should send in their names to or ask information of Mr. Morris, the secretary.

ASTORIA ELECTS F. C. HARLEY MAYOR

Regular Nominee Defeats Independent Candidate.

F. C. Harley, regular nominee at the primary election in Astoria for mayor, was given the endorsement of the voters at the election Wednesday, winning over the "clean government" and independent candidate, George Hyland, by a vote of approximately 3 to 1. At the primary election only 1,800 of the 4,000 registered voters took the trouble to go to the polls and express their choice. Harley defeated F. J. Johnson, the present incumbent, in the primaries by a good majority. Johnson had been elected as an independent. After the result of the election was known, much dissatisfaction existed among the voters, so they nominated Hyland as independent. Harley had the regular political machine behind him and in the final race came out with a handsome majority over the independent candidate.

ANNUAL MEETING OF TAXPAYERS' LEAGUE

President Walter Pierce has set the annual meeting of the State Taxpayers' League for Friday, January 26, 1917, at Salem. A resolution was adopted at the last annual meeting requiring that the 1916 annual meeting of the league be held at Salem shortly after the convening of the legislature, but the exact date was not mentioned. The president has decided on January 26, as by that time many bills on taxation will have been introduced by the legislature and the members of the association will have an opportunity of investigating them and of making recommendations as to their merits.

Each County Taxpayers' League is entitled to three votes at the annual meeting, but any taxpayer is entitled to a seat at the annual meeting and will be permitted to speak.

A large attendance at this annual meeting is expected and a very interesting time is assured.

LIST OF TRANSFERS

Reported by Columbia County Abstract Company.

Dec. 1—Joanna L. Maxwell to Laura W. Baxter et al; land in Sec. 28, Tp. 5 N., R. 1 W.; also lots in Col. City, \$1.

Dec. 2—Edward C. Brough et al. to Geo. W. Vogel; lot 7, blk. B, Rainier, \$1.

Edward C. Brough et al. to Rainier lodge No. 1435, Royal Order of Moose; lot 6, blk. B, Rainier, \$1.

Nels Carlsen et ux. to State Bank of Rainier; lot 4, blk. 2, Blanchard's add to Rainier, \$50.

Ida M. Crosswhite et ux. to Hezekiah H. Tracy; land in Sec. 18, Tp. 6 N., R. 4 W., \$1.

Dec. 4—C. H. John, admr., to Arthur Van Dolah; land in Sec. 32, Tp. 5 N., R. 1 W.

Ella M. Kyser to School District No. 23; land in Sec. 29, Tp. 7 N., R. 3 W.

Fred Bentley et ux. to Alvia J. Bicknell et ux.; land in Sec. 19, Tp. 7 N., R. 2 W., \$10.

Dec. 5—J. A. Van Dolah et ux. to Harley C. Van Dolah; land in Sec. 32, Tp. 5 N., R. 1 W., \$100.

Frank Tedesco to Ralph Cipparone; land in Sec. 34, Tp. 4 N., R. 2 W., \$300.

J. A. Van Dolah et ux. to Patience A. Van Dolah; land in Sec. 32, Tp. 5 N., R. 1 W., \$100.

Dec. 7—Ruel H. Galtens to H. Morgus et al.; lot 4, blk. 6, Deer Island, \$150.

Dec. 9—Oscar Johnson to Anna Peterson; land in Sec. 30, Tp. 4 N., R. 1 W., \$1.

Anna Peterson to Oscar Johnson; land in Sec. 30, Tp. 4 N., R. 1 W., \$1.

Oscar Johnson et ux. to Carl H. Johnson; land in Sec. 30, Tp. 4 N., R. 1 W., \$1.

Dec. 11—Walter Brakebush to St. Helens Imp. Co.; lot 24, blk. 10, Railroad add. to Rainier.

The high school has organized an inter-class league composed of three teams, freshmen, sophomores and seniors. They will play preliminary games with the team of the Sunset club before engaging in class games.